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PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 09/806,775-Conf. #5959

Patent Number

Inventor: Markku Rajala et al.**MESSAGE TO:** US Patent and Trademark Office**FAX NUMBER:** (703) 872-9306**FROM:** CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

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PHONE: (202) 331-7111**Attorney Dkt. #:** 20386-00294-US**PAGES (Including Cover Sheet):**

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Application No. (if known): 09/806,775

Attorney Docket No.: 20386-00294-US

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Substance of Interview

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAY 25 2005

Docket No.: 20386-00294-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Markku Rajala et al.

Application No.: 09/806,775

Confirmation No.: 5959

Filed: July 9, 2001

Art Unit: 1731

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SPRAYING OF
A MATERIAL

Examiner: J. M. Hoffmann

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants thank Examiner Hoffmann for the personal interview granted April 21, 2005. In response to the Examiner's Interview Summary mailed April 26, 2005, Applicants submit the following summary of the substance of the interview.

During the interview, Applicants' attorney discussed the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art cited in the Office Action mailed November 5, 2004. In particular, Applicants' attorney argued that Finnish Patent 98832 concerns depositing a dopant on glass rather than simultaneously spraying glass particles and dopant. Applicants' attorney further argued that Takahashi (US Patent 4,388,098) teaches exposing nebulized dopant to ambient air prior to exposure to a flame, and, unlike the claimed method, would therefore cause clustering of a rare earth metal dopant. Applicants' attorney further argued that Ainslie (US Patent 4,923,279) teaches an immersion method that is not relevant to the claimed method.

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The Examiner was not persuaded by the above arguments and asserted that Randall (US Patent 3,883,336) suggests improvements to the process of Finnish Patent 98832 that render the claimed method obvious. The Examiner suggested the possibility of Applicants overcoming the prior art by submitting unexpected results, which would have to be weighed against the teachings of Finnish Patent 98832 regarding providing a quick and inexpensive spraying method.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20386-00294-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

May 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By



Brian J. Hairston, Reg. No. 46,750

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